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Contact: Pamela Gregg
gregg@udayton.edu

NEWS RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., ARTIST PROMOTES MESSAGE OF PEACE IN ARTWORK ON DISPLAY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

DAYTON, Ohio — For some, making a career leap from political news correspondent to devotional artist might involve one heck of an occupational chasm. But for Peggy Stanton, the jobs are very similar — both involve delivering a message — and only the medium has changed.

Stanton, who once covered the White House and Capitol Hill as the ABC television network's first female news correspondent in Washington, D.C., is currently showing more than two dozen pieces in "Mother of Peace, Prince of Peace, Child of Peace," an exhibit at the University of Dayton's Marian Library Gallery.

Admission to the exhibit, which will run through Oct. 13, is free and open to the public. Gallery hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Marian Library, which holds the world's largest collection of printed materials about Mary, the mother of Jesus, is located on the seventh floor of Roesch Library on campus.

A "virtual" tour of the exhibit will run concurrently on the library's Web gallery at <http://www.udayton.edu/mary/gallery.html>.

The exhibit features several large paintings including "Divine Mercy," a seven and one-half foot tall portrait of Christ, as well as a new series of 14 pieces — "A Mother's View of the Passion" — created for the UD show and depicting the Stations of the Cross.

According to Stanton, her artwork is developed with a purpose — that of inspiring peace in the viewer. "For 12 years, peace has been my passion and my mission," she said. Her subjects often include Christ and his mother, Mary, and her paintings also often feature children — whom she believes serve as God's vessel of peace on Earth. "Mother Teresa said she saw God in the eyes of every child. John Paul II said that children provide the most transparent view of God on earth."

Like most of her work, the pieces in this exhibit are created primarily in prismacolor, a wax-based colored pencil the artist has dubbed "oil in a barrel. I like it because it is wonderfully versatile and can be made to look like oil, pastel or simply colored pencil." She

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300 College Park Dayton, Ohio 45469-1679
(937) 229-3241 (937) 229-3063 Fax
www.udayton.edu

also prefers the medium for its symbolic role in the message she tries to convey. "The pencil with an oil base captures light and reflects it," she said. "In our demeanor toward Christ, may each of us capture the light of the Prince of Peace and reflect it."

Stanton said her evolution from reporter to artist was a natural transition.

"When I became pregnant, I left ABC, believing my daughter, Kelly, needed a mother at home rather than a mother trotting the globe with a microphone." She "set up shop at home" and continued to write as a free-lancer for newspapers and magazines. She also wrote and illustrated two books, *How to Help Your Child Eat Right* and *The Daniel Dilemma*, a study of the moral man in the public arena.

"Art has been a part of me since I was a child drawing a cartoon strip," Stanton said. "I illustrated both my books, but did not really study painting seriously until 1985. It was then I focused on the fact that I had not really utilized a gift God had given me — perhaps the best gift He had given me.

"Art and writing are two sides of the same coin — communication. Basically, I am a storyteller, sometimes with words, sometimes with pictures, often with both."

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For media interviews, contact **Peggy Stanton** at (440) 354-8488 or via e-mail at pstanton@peacethroughlove.org.